


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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The current Abstract has been amended as follows:

A B S T R A C T

~~The present invention concerns an improved device for~~ For mixing and distributing a gas phase and a liquid phase over a granular bed, ~~described in a prior application.~~

~~The improvement essentially consists of employing an annular peripheral zone inside a reactor via which liquid is introduced and which acts as a buffer zone against fluctuations in the flow of the liquid phase.~~

~~The invention also concerns a~~ Device is applicable to catalytic bed chemical reactor using said device, and a process for chemical conversion, in particular reactors especially for the hydrotreatment of hydrocarbons ~~using said reactor.~~

~~Figure 1 to be published.~~